

BOOK NOTICES

Timber Press

D.J. CALLAWAY and M.B. CALLAWAY (Eds.). 2000. **Breeding Ornamental Plants**. (ISBN 0-88192-482-2, hbk.). Timber Press Inc. 133 S.W. Second Ave, Suite 450, Portland, OR 97204-3527, U.S.A. (Orders: www.timberpress.com, mail@timberpress.com, 503-227-2878, 1-800-327-5680, 503-227-3070 fax). \$34.95, 359 pp., 88 color photos, 10 b/w photo, 26 line drawings, 26 tables, 6" x 9".

The authors have succeeded in their goal of producing a book "useful to gardeners interested in plant breeding, ... presented in an interesting and easily understandable format." It is remarkably condensed, but plenty of references are at hand for whoever might want to dig more deeply. The first two chapters are by the Calloways: "Genetics and its applications," a brief and gentle introduction to Mendelian genetics, quantitative genetics, and polyploidy, and "Plant breeding—practical matters," an overview of how one might approach a 'back-yard' breeding program. Short sections on "naming selections" and "plant protection and trademarks" are especially interesting (to me). Then, from various authors, a series of chapters follows on particular plant genera and groups: daylilies, daffodils, Siberian *Iris*, hostas, ornamental aroids, African violets, gesneriads, *Amaryllis*, *Penstemon*, rhododendrons and azaleas, *Kalmia* and relatives, camellias, lilacs, magnolias, and oaks. These are nicely edited for consistency of format and all include sections on "important traits and breeding objectives," "hybridization mechanics," and "propagation," in addition to topics particular to the plant group.

Even if not interested in breeding, many gardeners and botanical enthusiasts will enjoy reading sections of this book related to plants of their special interest. For example, find important mutations in African violets and the date on which each was first recorded, and read about the history of daylily hybridizing, vegetative propagation in camellias by cuttings and grafting, and key groups and breeding lines in daffodils.—Guy Nesom, *Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, TX, 76102-4060, U.S.A.*

PAUL CAPPIELLO and DON SHADOW. 2005. **Dogwoods: the Genus *Cornus***. (ISBN 0-88192-679-5, hbk.). Timber Press Inc. 133 S.W. Second Ave, Suite 450, Portland, OR 97204-3527, U.S.A. and 2 Station Road, Swavesey, Cambridge CB4 5QJ, U.K. (Orders: www.timberpress.com, mail@timberpress.com, 503-227-2878, 1-800-327-5680, 503-227-3070 fax). \$39.95, 224 pp., color photos, b/w drawings, 7 1/2" x 11".

This is primarily an overview of all dogwoods of horticultural merit. Obviously some species are left out. About 31 species are included out of a possible 45–65 reported for the genus by the author. A key to species treated would have been a nice addition. In spite of having no key, this book is filled with an enormous amount of horticultural information on choice selections and hybrids available to the dogwood lover. The author provides in excess of 200 excellent photos.—Barney Lipscomb, *Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 509 Pecan Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060, U.S.A.*